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(71) Applicant: ABBOTT LABORATORIES [US/US]; Dept. 377/AP6D-2, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-6050 (US).

(72) Inventors: CHO, Steven, T; 379 Regency Circle #305, Salinas, CA 93906 (US). CLARK, Gene, E; 3714 Red Oak Way, Redwood, CA 94061 (US). (74) Agents: WOODWORTH, Brian, R et al.; Dept. 377/AP6D-2, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-6050 (US).

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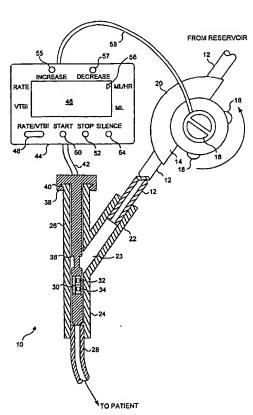
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(54) Title: CLOSED-LOOP FLOW CONTROL FOR IV FLUID DELIVERY



(57) Abstract: In a closed-loop process, a controller uses a flow sensor to monitor the flow of a medicinal fluid being infused into a patient, to achieve a desired rate of flow. A relatively inexpensive peristaltic pump or electronically controlled valve can be used to vary the flow of the medicinal fluid through a fluid line. A Y site within the fluid line includes an integral flow sensor having an orifice. The flow sensor includes proximal and distal pressure sensors disposed on opposite sides of the orifice to monitor the distal and proximal pressure, producing a signal indicative of the rate of flow of the medicinal fluid through the fluid line. A signal produced by the controller is input to a motor driving the pump or to the valve to vary the rate of flow as required to achieve the desired infusion rate of the medicinal fluid.

13

WO 02/009795 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte nal Application No PCI/US 01/23782

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A. CLASSII IPC 7	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER A61M5/172 A61M5/168		
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C. DOCUME	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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χ Furth	her documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family member	s are listed in annex.
"A" docume consid "E" earlier of filing d "L" docume which citation "O" docume other i	ent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or is cited to establish the publication date of another in or other special reason (as specified) ent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or means ent published prior to the international filing date but	citéd to understand the pri invention "X" document of particular relevent of cannot be considered novent involve an inventive step voument of particular relevent of cannot be considered to indocument is combined with ments, such combination in the art.	conflict with the application but notiple or theory underlying the vance; the claimed invention el or cannot be considered to when the document is taken alone vance; the claimed invention twolve an inventive step when the hone or more other such docubeling obvious to a person skilled
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	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Michels, N	

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